Cut Motion No. 8.

To provide adequate measures to prevent epidemics in the State.

* **Mr. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan** *(Commerce and Industry): To reduce the allotment of Rs. 32,203 for Sanitation and Conservancy by Re. 1. (For providing adequate measures for the prevention of typhoid and other epidemics in the State.)* മുൻസിപ്പാൽ അതുത്തി കളിലും സ്റ്റേറിന്റെ നാനാഭാഗങ്ങളിലും ടൈഫോയിഡ് മുതലായ സുഖ ക്കേടുകൾ പിടിപ്പെട്ട ജനങ്ങൾ വളരെ കഷ്ടപ്പെടുന്നുണ്ട്. നമ്മുടെ രാജ്യ ത്തുള്ള പബ്ലിക്ക് ഹെൽത്ത് ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെണ്ടിൽ നിന്നും ഇങ്ങിനെയുള്ള സുഖ ക്കേടുകൾ ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് പിടിപ്പെടാതിരിക്കുവാൻ വേണ്ടിയുള്ള യാതൊരു പ്രവൃത്തികളും ചെയ്യുകാണുന്നില്ല ഈ രാജ്യത്തു് പ്ലേഗ് ബാധിക്കാതിരി ക്കുവാൻ വേണ്ടി എലികളെ പിടിക്കുക മുതലായ പ്രവൃത്തികൾ മാത്രം ചെയ്യുന്നതല്ലാതെ ടൈഫോയിഡ് പിടിപ്പെട്ട കഷ്ടപ്പെടുന്ന ജനങ്ങളെ രക്ഷിപ്പാൻ യാതൊരു പ്രവൃത്തികളും ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെണ്ടിൽ നിന്നും നടത്തു ന്നില്ല. ഒരു സാധു കുടുംബത്തിൽ ടൈഫോയിഡ് ദീനം തുടങ്ങിയാൽ ആ കുടുംബത്തിൽ അഞ്ചോ എട്ടോ പേരുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അവരെല്ലാം ആ പീഡ നിമിത്തം കഷ്ടപ്പെടേണ്ടതായി വരുന്നുണ്ട്. പ്ലേഗ് ദീനംപിടിച്ച ആളുകൾ മരിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ട് മട്ടാഞ്ചേരിയിലുള്ള കെട്ടിടങ്ങൾ മുഴുവനും മറിച്ചിട്ടാലും തരക്കേടില്ല; അവിടെയുള്ള ജനങ്ങളെയെല്ലാം ഓടിച്ചാലും തരക്കേടില്ലയെന്നുള്ള നിലയിൽ ഉത്സാഹം കാണിക്കുന്നതു പോലെ തന്നെ ടൈഫോയിഡിനും കൂടി ഗവർമ്മെണ്ട് കൂടുതൽ ശ്രദ്ധ വെക്കണമെന്നാണ ഞാൻ പറയുന്നതു". ഞാൻ ഡോക്ടർമാരെ കുറ്റം പറയുകയല്ല. അതുത്തു കളിലും മറ്റും ടൈഫോയിഡ് പിടിപെട്ടവർ വരുമ്പോൾ സാധാരണ ദീനമായി കരുതി കുത്തിവെക്കുകയൊ, മരുന്നു കൊടുക്കുകയൊ ഒക്കെയാണ് ഡോക്ടർമാർ ചെയ്യുന്നതു്. അവസാനം വിദ്ധനായ മറെറാരു ഡോക്ടർ വന്നു് അതു നൂമോണിയ ആണെന്നും അഭിപ്രായപ്പെടും. ഇങ്ങിനെ സുഖക്കേടു് ഇന്നതാണെന്നു് ഡോക്ടർമാർ തീർച്ചയാക്കുന്നതിന്നു മുമ്പു രോഗി മരിച്ചുപോവുകയും ചെയ്യും. ഒടുവിൽ രോഗി മരിച്ചുവെന്നു കേൾക്കുമ്പോൾ അതു ടൈഫോയിഡായിരുന്നു, ചികത്സിച്ചതു തെറ്റിപോയെന്നു ഡോ ക്ടർമാർ തന്നെ പറയും. ഇങ്ങിനെയുള്ള ഉപദ്രവങ്ങൾ ധാരാളമായി ഉണ്ടാ കുന്നുണ്ട്. ടൈഫോയിഡിനു ചികിത്സിക്കുവാൻ വലിയ ചിലവൊന്നുമില്ല. അഥവാ പണച്ചിലവുണ്ടെങ്കിലും രോഗിയെ രക്ഷിച്ചാൽ മാത്രമെ അയാളുടെ രക്തം വലിച്ചൂട്ടുകുവാൻ സാധിക്കുകയുള്ളൂ.

മിസ്റ്റർ എ. ഈച്ചരമേനോൻ: മുനിസിപ്പാലിറ്റിയിൽ നിന്നും മരുന്നു കൊടുക്കുന്നില്ലേ?

മിസ്റ്റർ പോപ്പട്ടലാൽ ഗോവർദ്ധനലാലൻ: മുനിസിപ്പാലിറ്റിയിൽ നിന്നു് എന്തു മരുന്നാണു് കൊടുക്കുന്നതെന്നു എനിക്കറിഞ്ഞുകൂടാ.

അതുകൊണ്ടു ഒയവുചെയ്യ ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടു കഴിയുന്നതും വേ ഗത്തിൽ സ്റ്റേറിലുള്ള ജനങ്ങളെ രക്ഷിക്കുന്നതിന്നു വേണ്ടതു ചെയ്യാൻ കൊ ള്ളുന്നു.

Mr. Shabdai S. Koder *(Nominated):* Mr. President, Sir, I rise to support this cut. Tuberculosis and typhoid are the two diseases

* Speech not corrected by the hon'ble member.

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that take a heavy toll of life in our State every year. As a layman I do not know whether any effective measures could be taken especially in Mattancheri without a proper drainage scheme. But in British Cochin when typhoid breaks out the Municipality supply Bili-Vaccine, which is sold to people at four annas per tube of three pills, and also inoculation measures are taken. I do not know whether it is the practice in the various municipalities in our State. If that is not so, I would request the Hon'ble Minister to compel the municipalities to stock Bili-Vaccine in sufficient quantities and either distribute it freely among the people when an outbreak is feared or as the British Cochin Municipality is doing give the vaccine at a very nominal price. It is to bring this to the notice of the Hon'ble Minister that I have taken part in the discussion.

Mr. N. Govinda Pai *(Nominated):* Sir, I rise to support the motion. While I was young I remember that the name of typhoid was treated with the same respect as the name of plague is today respected. It was such a rare visitor in Mattancheri that people were afraid of it whenever the name was heard of. All that respect is gone now and it has become a common visitor almost in every house and every season throughout the year. The reasons which have contributed to these frequent visits of typhoid is a matter to be left to the experts, our doctors, and I am not in a position to say anything on the subject. But the fact remains that typhoid does not leave this town as it did in olden times and it has already formed a permanent part of the floating population of Mattancheri now. It is a pitiable sight to see members of a small family down with fever with rarely anyone left to take care of them, with their life hanging in the balance for weeks together and if they are of only very moderate means it is almost enough to ruin the family. Now in a civilised State like ours it is really pitiable that things should be allowed to continue like this. I think Government will take adequate preventive measures that would effectively put a stop to this sad state of affairs.

* **Dr. A. R. Menon** *(Minister for Rural Development):* Sir, It is an old adage that familiarity breeds contempt. Similarly this disease became so prevalent that people began to think that typhoid is a matter of normal occurrence. While we talk about cholera, small-pox and plague taking their toll of humanity this typhoid fever or enteric fever as it is called is responsible for more deaths year after year not only in this State but all over India. The matter becomes very complicated when we understand the method of infection of this disease and the various means or agencies by which the disease is carried far and wide. For example, if some flies settle down upon the refuse matter of a typhoid patient they carry on their legs and wings the typhoid bacilli and if they sit upon good food

* Speech not corrected by the hon'ble member.

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or upon even fruits there is a possibility of infection being carried on into the system. Similarly if water is infected this bacilli has the capacity of multiplying very vigorously and a whole village and a part of the whole town can be infected in no time. From that the House will understand the great difficulty even for taking precautionary measures of controlling this disease. Even in towns with up-to-date methods of sanitation occasionally there is an epidemic of this disease. I do not for a moment deny that by taking proper measures you would be able to control this disease to a very great extent. In order that we may succeed it is absolutely essential that there must be complete and loyal co-operation and a willingness on the part of the people to co-operate with the Government to carry into effect the various measures that the Department may propose. It is always our difficulty and I believe that is the difficulty with regard to all the Governments to carry conviction into the minds of our people about the necessity of following certain lines of action. For example, if you tell a person that there is a possibility of infecting oneself if he eats foods touched by a typhoid patient he would not believe it. Even if he believes it, he finds it difficult to follow the advice. Again in the coffee stalls on both sides of the crowded street there is always a chance of dust and other materials settling down upon the food and that is another source of carrying this disease. Now, what can the Government do in a matter like this? The first thing they could do is to see that all public wells are kept in good condition and if necessary sterilise them by using some innocent antiseptic like Potassium Chlorate. But the moment you do that, the people take an objection to use that water. The second thing that the Government can do is to take other preventive measures such as inoculation or giving what is called Bili—Vaccine. When I was the Municipal Chairman at Trichur, it was our custom the moment we find this outbreak to surround that area to a certain distance and distribute freely this medicine for three days.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Cheruthuruthi):* I may inform the Hon'ble Minister that this practice is even now followed by the Municipality.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* Yes. The place is surrounded by the Municipal officers and this medicine is distributed for three days. If you give it into their hands they will go and sell it because it fetches a good price and, therefore, the officer sees that the man actually swallows it. With regard to inoculation it produces pain. Perhaps it may be more efficacious. It is more painful and there is less inclination on the part of the people to undergo this operation involving pain to some extent and even you may get fever for a day or two. These are the only two known

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methods by which we could to some extent protect the people from getting themselves infected. I honestly think that it ought to be part and parcel of the duty of the Municipality without regard to its own finance to see that these measures are adopted. The Government will see that the necessary measures are taken by the Municipality and the Government will come forward to help whenever necessary.

With regard to rural areas our difficulties are much greater. If there is difficulty with regard to urban areas those difficulties are much exaggerated in the case of rural areas. There it is much more difficult to deal with this kind of cases and also fortunately there is less chance of this infection spreading as houses are isolated. In spite of all this protection we have to face the reality that every year this disease will have its toll and in spite of precautions we may not be able to absolutely get rid of this disease. That is no excuse for us not to take precautionary measures. The House may rest assured that the necessary instructions will be issued to the Municipalities and necessary steps will be taken in the rural areas.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim *(Cranganur):* Why can't you introduce compulsory preventive inoculation ?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* Can we compel them to undergo this pain ? Some people have religious objection. These things are taken from serums. Even with regard to vaccination there is conscencious objection. Moreover, vaccination affords immunity for a prolonged period. This one we have to give year by year. I think Bili-Vaccine will be more popular. But in any case it ought to be undertaken by the Municipality.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* May I know whether it is possible to give free inoculation to prevent typhoid, if anybody wants it ?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* That is what I want. Another misunderstanding in our country is this. The moment you say it is free, even well-to-do persons will go and try to get it for nothing. That is the psychology. Somehow or other there is the tendency to get something for nothing. It is not reasonable. It is unjust. There is no harm in going and getting inoculated. But why not pay ? Those who can pay should voluntarily pay. I know instances in our country where people do actually pay twice, three times or even 5 times the price.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim *(Cranganur):* Just as we have made vaccination compulsory in spite of its being a little painful if typhoid is running and taking toll of our population at least in Municipal

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areas it must be made compulsory. The same arguments for making vaccination compulsory will hold good in this case also.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* I have never found any country where this is made compulsory. Let us at least give all facilities for those who voluntarily come forward. We are not doing it now. For those who come voluntarily at least let there be facilities for getting themselves inoculated. That is the first step. Later on we will consider the other.

* മിസ്റ്റർ പോപ്പട്ടലാൽ ഗോവൽസലാലൻ: മിസ്റ്റർ പ്രസിഡെണ്ട്, സർ, ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ഗ്രാമോദ്ധാരണ മന്ത്രി ഞവർകൾ ഒരു ഡോക്ടരാണല്ലോ നിലയിൽ ടെഹായിധിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ച് അദ്ദേഹത്തിനു പരിചയമുള്ള സംഗതികൾ ഈ സഭയിൽ പറഞ്ഞു മനസ്സിലാക്കിയതിൽ അദ്ദേഹത്തോട് ഞങ്ങൾ വളരെ നന്ദി പറഞ്ഞുകൊള്ളുന്നു. അതോടു കൂടി മുനിസിപ്പാലിറ്റികളിലും, മറ്റുള്ള ഗ്രാമങ്ങളിലും ഇതിനു വേണ്ടവിധത്തിൽ ഏർപ്പാട് ചെയ്യുന്നതാണെന്ന് അദ്ദേഹം പറഞ്ഞതു കൊണ്ട് ഞാൻ ഈ കട്ട്മോഷൻ പിൻവലിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Cut Motion No. 9.

To remove the trenching ground at Kalur

Mr. V. N. Damodaran Nambiar *(Trippunittura): To reduce the allotment of Rs. 95,626 for Rural Sanitation by Re. 1. (To urge upon the Government the immediate necessity of removing the trenching ground for waste matter at Kalur from its present site).*

The object of my cut motion is very similar to the one that was moved by my friend Mr. Peter, and on which there was a very elaborate discussion here. I do not therefore wish to speak at length on the several processes by which night soil can profitably be disposed of. Several methods have been pointed out on the floor of this House. I only wish to point out to the Government one fact which is peculiar to the nightsoil depot at Kalur. We have been thinking that this is a subject on which the Government had come to a final decision already. As is common in the case of similar questions, with regard to this matter also the Government have given us assuring replies several times in the past to the effect that this depot at Kalur will be shifted from its present site at a very early date. In fact we were under the impression that the Government have come to a decision on this question. But when I asked a question during the last session of this Council the Government replied that the matter was still under their consideration and that no decision had been arrived at. I wish to hear from the Government as to how the matter stands now, whether they have any proposal to shift that site in the immediate future apart from the mere giving of solemn and pious assurances. I do not think there is any

* Speech not corrected by the hon'ble member.

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